



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 24, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Mike Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Grant Criteria for the Special Education and Early Intervention Services State Improvement Grant Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE-OSE/EIS) has received State Improvement Grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs since 1998 for purposes of improving the performance of students with disabilities through enhancements in personnel development. The first five-year grant focused on systematic strengthening of four interrelated personnel development processes: Information Development, Awareness and Dissemination, Sustained Learning, and Capacity Building.

The current three-year grant, awarded in September 2004, targets Mathematics and English Language Arts performance of middle schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress for their students with disabilities. Funding for the grant is \$1,386,000 for each of the three years, for a total of \$4,158,000. Collaborative initiatives underway in these content areas link special education and general education resources in a more universal education design. The grant also uses Root Cause Mapping to build consensus among diverse stakeholders about the causes and solutions for low student performance. Resulting insights and proposed actions then inform improvement plans.

Criteria for this grant are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for a continuation grant for the Special Education and Early Intervention Services State Improvement Grant under the IDEA (2004) as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2006.

Attachment

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**MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for the Special Education and Early Intervention Services State  
Improvement Grant Under the Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Act (IDEA 2004)

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Ensuring Excellent Educators     | Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy |
| • Elevating Educational Leadership | Integrating Communities and       |
| • Embracing the Information Age    | Schools                           |

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

☐ Competitive   ☐ Formula   ☐ New   ☒ Continuation

The grant will connect general and special education initiatives. It engages specialists in mathematics, and literacy, as well as Partner Educators, who will facilitate common endeavors to increase coherence in school improvement efforts. Root Cause Mapping and Communities of Practice methodologies will integrate disparate program assets that must converge if school improvement efforts are to function effectively and high priority schools increase Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) proficiency rates among Michigan's middle school students with disabilities.

**LEGISLATION**

As stated in the January 14, 2004 Federal Register, the purpose of the State Improvement Grant "is to assist State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and their partners with reforming and improving their systems for providing educational, early intervention, and transitional services, including their systems for professional development, technical assistance, and dissemination of knowledge about best practices, to improve results for children with disabilities." The grant is also to be "integrated, to the maximum extent possible, with State plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965..." and to help "Change State policies and procedures to address systemic barriers to improving results for children with disabilities..."

**RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA**

The grant is intended to support the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE-OSE/EIS) in enhancing personnel development processes and products in Mathematics and English Language Arts, in a manner that combines the strengths of each, in a universal education design.

Criteria for the Special Education and Early Intervention Services State Improvement Grant Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

**CRITERIA**

- ☐ Defined in Legislation                      ☒ Defined in Department's Grant  
☐ Proposed by Staff

The following objectives are specific to this grant:

1. Preparing and supporting a cadre of skilled "Partner Educators" that will facilitate target schools using data for school improvement, analyzing root causes for AYP gaps, instituting content based Communities of Practice and implementing school improvement plans informed by these practices.
2. Engaging personnel at high priority middle schools in a universal school improvement process that integrates general education, special education and parents in a common design.
3. Instituting AYP Communities of Practice in Mathematics and English Language Arts to enhance high priority middle school teachers' knowledge of content and pedagogy.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

This is a continuation of a previously awarded grant.

**TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Middle school students with disabilities and the adults who support them (including teachers, support services personnel, administrators, and parents).

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Up to \$1,386,000 are available under the IDEA (2004) allocation to Michigan for FY 2005-2006, as identified in the approved spending plan for Michigan.

**OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services  
Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director  
Program Contact: David Smith, Managing Director